

COMMUNITY STORIES

ORANGE COUNTY ACEs TASK FORCE



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- Provides opportunities for community members to network and learn from each other.
- Educates people in Orange County about adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and the effects of toxic stress through film screenings and presentations across different sectors including health, mental health, faith-based communities, juvenile justice, businesses and schools.
- Recognizes the mental and emotional impact on those who provide services to communities that experience high ACE scores. Seeks to create a supportive environment that promotes self-care and resilience building for our members, organizations and communities.
- Recently created our Strategic Action Plan and are recruiting cross-sector representation to engage with our leadership team on education, awareness and advocacy.

EARLY RESULTS: The Orange County ACEs Task Force incorporates trauma-informed, resilience building practices into its strategic plan and is currently developing training and resources needed to create healing in our communities, organizations and systems.

MEMBERS: We are a grassroots collaboration of community members representing healing modalities, education, health care, mental health, juvenile justice, government, business, and other community-serving organizations. We strive to create a more resilient Orange County by educating individuals, communities and organizations about ACEs, trauma and resilience.

ACEs FACTS FOR ORANGE COUNTY ADULTS: 45.1% of adults in Orange County experienced from one to three ACEs in childhood.*

ACEs FACTS FOR ORANGE COUNTY CHILDREN: Nearly one in five children in Orange County experienced at least two ACEs, parent reported, per KidsData.org.**

Data Source: [As cited on kidsdata.org](https://kidsdata.org), Rodriguez, D., et al. (2016)

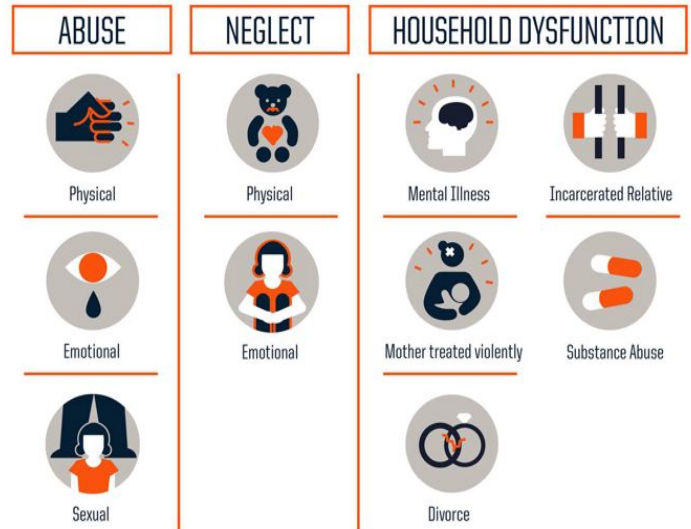


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WHY ACEs MATTER: Adverse childhood experiences, or ACEs, are potentially traumatic experiences that occur in childhood, such as abuse, neglect, substance abuse or mental abuse in the household, domestic violence, or having a parent in prison. In the absence of a nurturing caregiver or other protective factors, these early adverse experiences can negatively impact growing brains and bodies.

The more types of trauma people experience, the more severe the consequences. Compared to someone who did not experience any childhood adversity, for example, a person who has experienced four ACEs is 12 times more likely to attempt suicide, seven times more likely to become an alcoholic, and twice as likely to have heart disease or cancer. People with high ACE scores are more likely to struggle with depression and autoimmune diseases. ACEs can also affect a child's health and wellbeing during their childhood. More broadly, ACEs have a negative impact on our schools, criminal justice system, economic vitality, and public health.



Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Credit: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

WHAT ORANGE COUNTY ACEs TASK FORCE IS DOING ABOUT ACEs:

- Providing an opportunity for community members to network, support and learn from each other.
- Educating people in Orange County about ACEs and the effects of toxic stress.
- Actively supporting the implementation of trauma-informed practices that increase resilience and wellness for all residents across the lifespan.

Orange County ACEs Task Force is dedicated to preventing and reducing the number of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) in the Orange County area, creating opportunities to heal from past trauma and building a resilient Orange County. **JOIN US** for our Orange County ACEs Task Force meetings the third Tuesday monthly from 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm in Laguna Woods.

Find out more about ACEs, Orange County ACEs Task Force and ACEs Connection Network at <http://www.acesconnection.com/g/orange-county-ca-aces-connection>

ACEsConnection.com and ACEsTooHigh.com. Learn more about the California Campaign to Counter Childhood Adversity at 4CAKids.org.